

13(original). The fuel supply apparatus as defined in claim 8, wherein the second fuel pump (12) has a compression chamber (12k) and the circulator line (52') extends from the compression chamber (12k).

14(original). The fuel supply apparatus as defined in claim 1, further comprising a leakage line (88) connecting the second fuel pump (12) to the fuel tank (2).

15(original). The fuel supply apparatus as defined in claim 14, wherein the leakage line (88) opens into the return line (22) upstream of the shut off valve (30).

16(currently amended). The fuel supply apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein the hydraulic resistance means comprises a valve (70, 76, 84) and said valve has a flow-through resistance depending on the fluid flow flowing therethrough.

REMARKS

I. Species Election Requirement

The Office Action contained a requirement to provisionally elect a species of invention shown in figure 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11 or 12 for further prosecution in this application.

Applicants provisionally elect the species of figure 12 for further prosecution.

Currently claim 1 is generic and thus claims the embodiment of fig. 12.

Claims 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 14, 15 and 16 read on the species of fig. 12.

Please be advised that applicants' are entitled to include claims for a reasonable number of species of invention in the above-identified U.S. Patent Application, once a generic claim for those species is found to be allowable, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.141.

II. Correction of Informalities in the Claims of the Preliminary Amendments

The preliminary amendment filed on or about October 30, 2001 to correct minor translation and other errors unfortunately introduced some other wording errors. It is assumed that the latest version of a claim would be the version examined on the merits.

The latest versions of claims 1 to 4 and 6 to 16 filed in the preliminary amendments and the original application have been amended by the above changes to eliminate the minor informalities that were unfortunately introduced when the preliminary amendment was prepared. The principal change was in claim 1, about line 15, in which the location of the shut off valve 30 is stated. The shut off valve 26 is always located in the fuel return line 22, which extends between fuel line 10 and the fuel tank 2 (It is never located in the fuel line 10, as stated in the preliminary amendment). The fuel line 10 is a line that runs from the high-pressure side 6h of the first fuel pump 6 to the low-pressure side 12n of the second fuel pump 12. In addition "means" was unfortunately inadvertently omitted from the last line of claim 1 in the preliminary amendment.

Approval of the changes in the claims is respectfully requested. The amended claims are the latest version of claims 1 to 4 and 6 to 16. The above claims are the claims that should be examined on the merits.

Should the Examiner require or consider it advisable that the specification, claims and/or drawing be further amended or corrected in formal respects to put this case in condition for final allowance, then it is requested that such amendments or corrections be carried out by Examiner's Amendment and the case passed to issue. Alternatively, should the Examiner feel that a personal discussion might be helpful in advancing the case to allowance, he or she is invited to telephone the undersigned at 1-631-549 4700.

In view of the foregoing, favorable allowance is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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Reg. No. 27,233